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COMMISSION ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
FOR DEVELOPMENT
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12-23 April 1993
Item 2 of the provisional agenda

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

Provisional agenda

1. Election of officers.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

3. Substantive theme: the contribution of technologies, including new and emerging ones, for the industrialization of developing countries and for the strengthening of regional and global integration processes, including proposals on ways and means of transferring such technologies and for their incorporation in the productive sector of those countries.

4. Activities of the United Nations system:

   (a) Coordination and cooperation in science and technology within the United Nations system;

   (b) Assessment of the effect of activities of the United Nations system related to the process of creating and strengthening endogenous capacity-building in science and technology in developing countries;

   (c) Activities of the Department of Economic and Social Development in science and technology for development.

5. Ad hoc panels/workshops to examine specific issues of science and technology for development.

6. Science and technology for sustainable development:

   (a) Scientific and technological implications of sustainable development;

   (b) Transfer and application of environmentally sound energy technologies.

7. Financing science and technology for development, including activities of the United Nations Fund for Science and Technology for Development.

8. Programme questions.

9. Election of the Chairperson and nomination of other officers for the second session of the Commission.

10. Provisional agenda and organization of work for the second session of the Commission.

11. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its first session.

Annotations

1. Election of officers

In accordance with the established practice for the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, the Commission may wish to elect a Chairperson, one or more Vice-Chairpersons and such other officers as may be required for its first session.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

The items and reports in the agenda have been proposed on the basis of General Assembly resolution 46/165, by which the Assembly endorsed the report of the former Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development on its eleventh session, as well as standing mandates such as that on inter-agency coordination. The agenda was subsequently approved by the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1992 in its resolution 1992/62. The provisional organization of work will be formulated in consultation with the Bureau and made available at the commencement of the meeting.

3. Substantive theme: the contribution of technologies, including new and emerging ones, for the industrialization of developing countries and for the strengthening of regional and global integration processes, including proposals on ways and means of transferring such technologies and for their incorporation in the productive sector of those countries

At its eleventh session, in 1991, the former Intergovernmental Committee adopted resolution 1 (XI), in which it requested the Secretary-General, drawing on the work of the relevant organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, to submit a report to it at its twelfth session on the theme cited above.

The report of the Secretary-General, prepared in response to that request, synthesizes the views of organizations within the United Nations system, and contributions and ideas from Member States and intergovernmental and non-governmental bodies. It looks at major economic trends and their relationship to science and technology; examines regionalization in the context

of global diffusion of new technologies; and suggests policies in the context of national entrepreneurship and endogenous science and technology capability.

In its consideration of the report, the Commission may wish to focus on strategies to enhance endogenous capacity-building and to reflect on the relevant role of the United Nations, in particular with a view to assessing and defining the Commission's role as the intergovernmental body with primary responsibility in the area of science and technology for development.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the contribution of technology to industrialization and regional and global integration (E/CN.16/1993/2)

4. Activities of the United Nations system

(a) Coordination and cooperation in science and technology within the United Nations system

The former Intergovernmental Committee, in its resolution 1 (XI), requested the Secretary-General to submit to it, at its twelfth session, in 1993, a report on ways and means of improving the quality of global coordination and cooperation in the area of science and technology for development, as well as system-wide coordination within the United Nations system. In response to that request, the report of the Secretary-General on the above subject will be before the Commission.

In addition, the Commission will have before it for information purposes the report entitled "New developments and trends in the programmes and activities of the United Nations system in science and technology for development" (A/CN.11/1991/5), which was submitted to the former Intergovernmental Committee at its eleventh session in 1991.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on ways and means of improving the quality of coordination and cooperation in science and technology for development (E/CN.16/1993/3)

Documentation for information

Report on new developments and trends in the programmes and activities of the United Nations system in science and technology for development (A/CN.11/1991/5)

(b) Assessment of the effect of activities of the United Nations system related to the process of creating and strengthening endogenous capacity-building in science and technology in developing countries

The former Intergovernmental Committee, in its resolution 1 (XI), requested the Secretary-General, in cooperation with the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, to submit an analytical report on the ways in which the United Nations system can more actively enhance the effect of

its activities related to the process of creating and strengthening endogenous capacity-building. The report of the Secretary-General reviews the current situation and, based on the work carried out so far, draws a number of tentative conclusions on the ways in which the activities of the United Nations system can better influence endogenous capacity-building in science and technology. The previous report of the Secretary-General on the same subject (A/CN.11/1991/4) is being made available to the Commission at its first session.

A note by the Secretary-General on the comprehensive policy review of operational activities was prepared pursuant to General Assembly resolution 46/219 of 20 December 1991. Subsequently, the General Assembly, in its resolution 47/199 of 22 December 1992, requested the Economic and Social Council, through the Commission on Science and Technology for Development at its session in 1993, to consider this policy review as a means to examine the contribution of the operational activities of the United Nations system to the enhancement of the national capacities of developing countries in the area of science and technology, and to make appropriate recommendations thereon.

The Commission might wish to review both of the reports and the note by the Secretary-General and provide guidelines to the Secretariat that could serve as a basis for its ongoing work.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the assessment of the effect of activities of the United Nations system related to the process of creating and strengthening endogenous capacity-building in science and technology in developing countries (E/CN.16/1993/4)

Documentation for information

Report of the Secretary-General on the assessment of the activities of the United Nations system in promoting endogenous capacity-building in developing countries in the area of science and technology (A/CN.11/1991/4)

Note by the Secretary-General on the comprehensive policy review of operational activities of the United Nations system (A/47/419/Add.1)

(c) Activities of the Department of Economic and Social Development in science and technology for development

The item on the activities of the former Centre for Science and Technology for Development had been included in the provisional agenda of the former Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development on a regular basis. In pursuance of that practice, the Commission will have before it a report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the Department of Economic and Social Development in the area of science and technology for development. The report covers the biennium from May 1991 to the present, and includes the activities of the former Centre and those of the Science, Technology, Energy, Environment and Natural Resources Division of the Department of Economic and Social Development.

The report reviews the four main subprogrammes of the science and technology programme. These include endogenous capacity-building; technology assessment, including the Advanced Technology Assessment System (ATAS); information; and harmonization and coordination. A description of related activities within the Department of Economic and Social Development is also included.

The Commission is requested to review the report of the Secretary-General and to suggest specific strategies for achieving the goals of the Vienna Programme of Action on Science and Technology for Development.

The Commission will also have before it the report of the Meeting of High-level Experts on Science and Technology for Development, held at Bujumbura, Burundi, from 4 to 8 May 1992. The expert group reviewed the past experiences of the Committee and made observations thereon. The Commission may wish to refer to the substantive advice provided in the Bujumbura report in its discussion of the activities of the Department. A note by the Secretary-General on the Expert Group Meeting on Technology Assessment, Monitoring and Forecasting, held in Paris, from 25 to 28 January 1993 as a part of the science and technology subprogramme on technology assessment, will also be before the Commission. The Expert Group Meeting addressed the conceptual framework for technology assessment, monitoring and forecasting, related policy issues and directions for action. The Commission may wish to take into consideration the proposals of the Expert Group Meeting in its recommendations for the science and technology programme.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the Department of Economic and Social Development in science and technology for development (E/CN.16/1993/5)

Report of the Meeting of High-level Experts on Science and Technology for Development (E/CN.16/1993/6)

Note by the Secretary-General on the Expert Group Meeting on Technology Assessment, Monitoring and Forecasting (E/CN.16/1993/CRP.___)

5. Ad hoc panels/workshops to examine specific issues of science and technology for development

The Economic and Social Council, in decision 1992/218 of 30 April 1992, in which it recalled General Assembly resolution 46/235 of 13 April 1992 on the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields, decided, inter alia, to establish a functional Commission on Science and Technology for Development, transformed from the Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development and its subsidiary body the Advisory Committee on Science and Technology for Development. The Assembly, in resolution 46/235, proposed that such functional commission should examine at its first session the question of funding arrangements and the modalities for the convening of ad hoc panels/workshops which would meet intersessionally to examine specific issues of science and

technology for development within the framework of Assembly resolutions 34/218 of 19 December 1979 and 41/183 of 8 December 1986.

This was based on the previous practice of the former Advisory Committee, which organized 14 panels from 1982 to 1990, covering a wide range of topics of high importance to developing and developed countries and, in many cases, provided the background documentation for consideration of major themes by the Intergovernmental Committee.

The Commission is requested to consider the report of the Secretary-General with a view to obtaining specialized advice on substantive matters for in-depth consideration.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the organization of ad hoc panels/workshops on specific issues of science and technology for development (E/CN.16/1993/7)

6. Science and technology for sustainable development

(a) Scientific and technological implications of sustainable development

Science and technology were identified throughout Agenda 21, adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, as essential means to achieve sustainable development objectives in all countries. Chapters 34 and 35 deal directly with science, technology and the environment. In addition, a number of chapters of Agenda 21 address specific issues related to science and technology.

The Commission may wish to take into account the relevant parts of Agenda 21, as noted, in deciding on its programme of work, as well as in determining its mode of interaction with the Commission on Sustainable Development.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General on the implications of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, including Agenda 21, for the work of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development (E/CN.16/1993/8)

(b) Transfer and application of environmentally sound energy technologies

At its eleventh session, the former Intergovernmental Committee, in its resolution 1 (XI), requested the former Centre to prepare, in cooperation with relevant United Nations bodies, a comprehensive study on the utilization and marketing of energy technologies, drawing on the studies conducted by other organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, and based on legislative, institutional and other specific experiences of selected countries and focusing on policy issues and options for an effective transfer and application of environmentally sound technologies, and to report to the

Committee thereon at its twelfth session. As a follow-up of that request, a report of the Secretary-General will be before the Commission.

The report briefly reviews the relevant technologies, examines policy issues and options for the effective transfer and application of environmentally sound energy technologies, including capacity-building and financing, and offers conclusions regarding further action.

In its consideration of the report, the Commission may wish to focus on specific actions that can be taken at the national, bilateral and multilateral levels to increase the opportunities for cooperation and the effective transfer and marketing of energy technologies. Further, it may decide to give special attention to the role of the United Nations in that regard.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the utilization and marketing of energy technologies, focusing on policy issues and options for the effective transfer and application of environmentally sound energy technologies (E/CN.16/1993/9)

7. Financing science and technology for development, including activities of the United Nations Fund for Science and Technology for Development

In response to General Assembly resolution 44/14 A and resolution 2 (X) of the former Intergovernmental Committee, the Secretary-General submitted a comprehensive report on financing science and technology for development (A/CN.11/1991/3) to the Intergovernmental Committee at its eleventh session, in 1991. The Committee took note of the concept and mode of operation outlined in the report as regards organizing a more effective coalition of resources.

The General Assembly, in its resolution 46/165, took note of the report of the Intergovernmental Committee on its eleventh session (A/46/37) and requested it, or its successor, to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session concrete proposals for organizing a more effective coalition of resources to meet the scientific and technological needs of developing countries. In accordance with that request, the Commission will have before it a report of the Secretary-General.

The report reviews, within the framework of financing science and technology for development, the experiences gained during the 1980s in the attempt to establish a long-term financing system and some alternative models based on inter-agency consultations.

The Commission may wish to review the report of the Secretary-General and make concrete proposals for consideration by the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session. It may also wish to provide substantive guidance for the work of the Secretariat on this subject.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the organization of a coalition of resources to finance science and technology for development (E/CN.16/1993/10)

8. Programme questions

Programme proposals for the biennium 1994-1995

The General Assembly, at its forty-fifth session, adopted the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, containing, inter alia, programme 17, (Science and technology for development), and reaffirmed that the plan was the principal policy directive of the United Nations and should serve as a framework for the formulation of the biennial programme budgets (resolution 45/253). Subsequently, at its forty-seventh session, the Assembly adopted revisions to that programme (resolution 47/214). The Commission will have before it for discussion a conference room paper on the proposed programme of work in science and technology for the biennium 1994-1995.

Documentation

Conference room paper on programme proposals for the biennium 1994-1995 (E/CN.16/1993/CRP.__)

9. Election of the Chairperson and nomination of other officers for the second session of the Commission

At its seventh session, in resolution 3 (VII), the former Intergovernmental Committee decided that, at each session, the Chairperson for the next session shall be elected, that the appropriate country groups shall nominate the other members of the Bureau and that this shall be the normal procedure henceforth. The Commission may wish to follow that procedure and elect the Chairperson for its second session and request appropriate regional groups to nominate other members of the Bureau.

10. Provisional agenda and organization of work for the second session of the Commission

The Commission will have before it a note by the Secretariat on the provisional agenda for its second session, the documents to be submitted under each item and proposals on the organization of its work.

11. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its first session

Under the provisions of General Assembly resolution 46/235, and Economic and Social Council decision 1992/218, the Commission on Science and Technology for Development submits its report to the Economic and Social Council.

The attention of the Commission is drawn to General Assembly resolution 37/14 C, in which the Assembly reiterated that, in preparing their reports, subsidiary organs should strive to keep such reports within the desirable limit of 32 pages, and requested all subsidiary organs whose reports exceed that limit to submit to the Committee on Conferences, prior to its next session, reasons for non-compliance.